

Climate Change: Socio-environmental Outlooks

Climate change is the most important environmental phenomenon worldwide because of its impact on the planet's natural and social conditions. The changes in average temperatures are so obvious that it would be hard to deny the urgency of action. Ninety-seven percent of scientists in the fields of physics and the natural sciences agree that they exist and on their effects. Recent global climate events are constant signs of this change; however, physics and the natural sciences are not enough to explain the problems, because this is no isolated phenomenon. It is happening in a given social setting, and for that reason must be analyzed in the context of a complex socio-environmental system. This complexity, in turn, brings with it new interests and interpretations that arise in the light of social diversity.



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In this special section of *Voices of Mexico*, our aim is to analyze climate change from different standpoints, with contributions from different disciplines and epistemological focuses. The main premise, and where our outlooks converge, is that this is not a phenomenon that alters only the physical, natural space in which we live, but also ourselves and our social surroundings. In other words, climate change implies a profound change in physical reality, but also takes on a profound significance in the socio-cultural setting. Given the changes it brings with it, political and social actions, both at an individual and collective level, are absolutely necessary. In this special section, we take up the discussions both in Mexico and around the world about the actions needed, the actors who should take them, and at what levels they should be taken.

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